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COMMODITIES

Ranked: Top 10 Countries by Value of All Their Natural Resources

Published
12 months ago
on
November 7, 2024
By
Bruno Venditti
Graphics/Design:

- **Sam Parker**

See this visualization first on the Voronoi app.

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Ranked: Top Countries by Natural Resource Value

This was originally posted on our Voronoi app. Download the app for free on iOS or Android and discover incredible data-driven charts from a variety of trusted sources.

Natural resources are the backbone of modern manufacturing, necessary to produce everything around us.

According to 2021 data from Statista, 10 countries dominate the global natural resource landscape, each holding vast reserves critical for various industries.

Russia's $75 Trillion in Natural Resources

Russia leads the pack with natural resources valued at $75 trillion, largely consisting of coal, natural gas, oil, and rare earth metals. At the end of 2018, Russia's Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment valued the country's mineral reserves at approximately $1.44 trillion.

In terms of global share, Russia is unmatched in natural gas, holding the world's largest proven reserves at 1.32 quadrillion cubic feet as of 2020—nearly 20% of the global total. Russia also ranks as a gold powerhouse.

Other Resource Giants

The United States ranks second, with an estimated $45 trillion in natural resources, including coal, timber, natural gas, and valuable metals like gold.

Country	Main Natural Resources	Value (in trill
□□ Russia	Coal, natural gas, oil, gold, timber, rare earth metals	75
□□ U.S.	Coal, timber, natural gas, gold, copper	45
□□ Saudi Arabia	Oil, timber	34
□□ Canada	Oil, uranium, timber, natural gas, phosphate	33
□□ Iran	Oil, natural gas	27
□□ China	Coal, rare earth metals, timber	23
□□ Brazil	Gold, uranium, iron, timber, oil	22
□□ Australia	Coal, timber, copper, iron ore, gold, uranium	20
□□ Iraq	Oil, phosphate rock	16
□□ Venezuela	Iron, natural gas, oil	14

In Saudi Arabia and Canada, oil wealth drives natural resources, placing these countries third and fourth on the list. Saudi Arabia, with its vast oil fields, has been a leader in global energy markets. Canada, on the other hand, also benefits from substantial uranium deposits and is home to some of the world's largest lumber companies.

Further down the list, China has vast coal reserves, positioning it as the top producer of the fuel.

Mineral-rich Brazil and Australia are leading producers of metals like iron ore, while Australia is also a top exporter of coal.

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If you enjoyed this graphic, make sure to check out this graphic that shows how global coal consumption is still rising.

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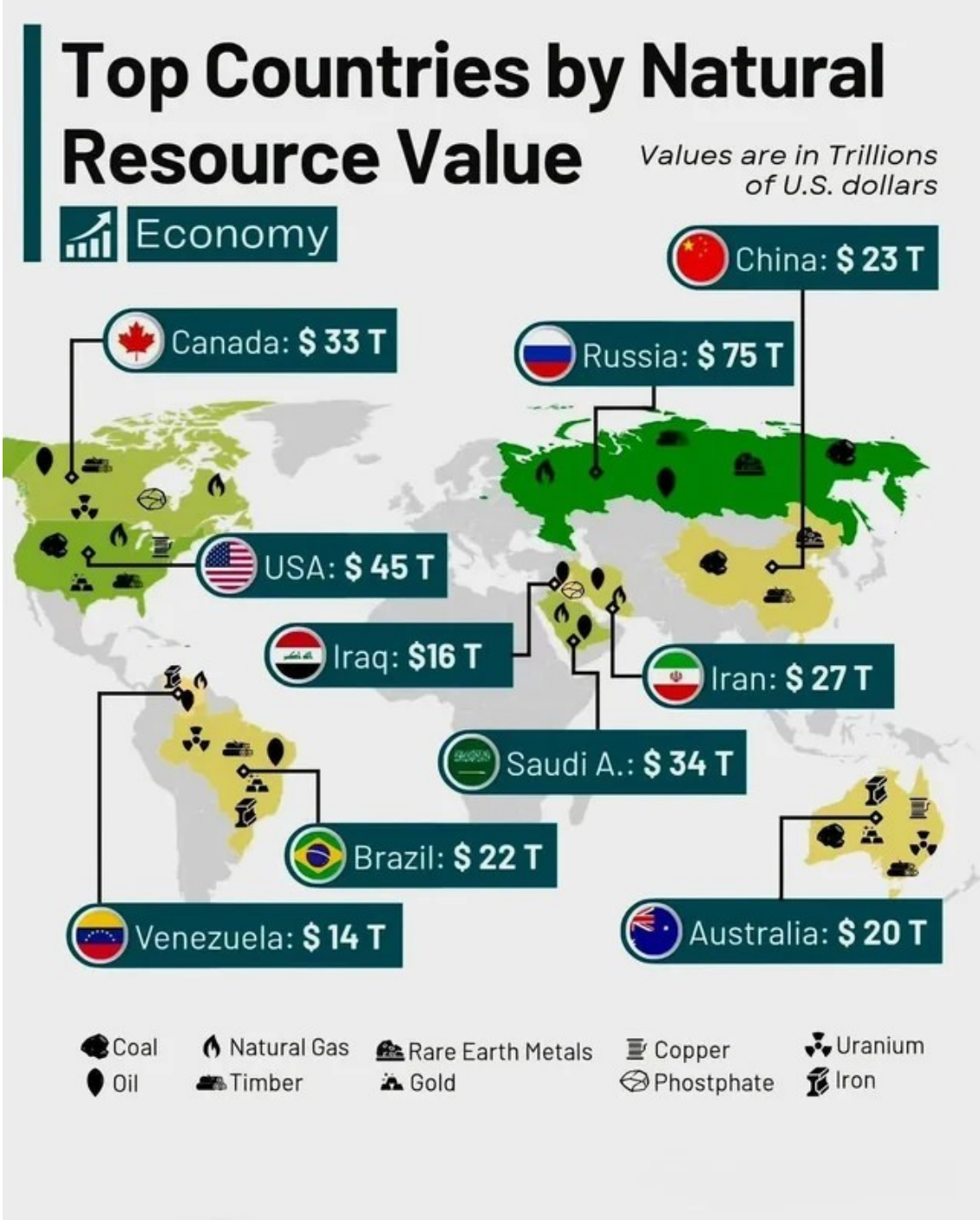
https://www.visualcapitalist.com/ranked-top-10-countries-by-value-of-all-their-natural-resources/


Top Countries by Natural Resource Value
Values are in Trillions of U.S. dollars
Economy
China: $ 23 T
Canada: $ 33 T
Russia: $ 75 T
USA: $ 45 T
Iraq: $16 T
Iran: $ 27 T
Saudi A.: $ 34 T
Brazil: $ 22 T
Venezuela: $ 14 T
Australia: $ 20 T
Coal
Natural Gas
Rare Earth Metals
Copper
Uranium
Oil
Timber
Gold
Phostphate
Iron

Perplexity:

Countries with the most natural resources include Russia, the United States, China, Saudi Arabia, Canada, India, Brazil, Australia, Venezuela, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These nations are rich in a diverse range of resources such as oil, natural gas, coal, precious metals, minerals, forests, and arable land, allowing them to benefit significantly from resource extraction and export industries.

On the other hand, the countries with the least natural resources are typically small, densely populated, or reliant on imports for key commodities. Notable examples of resource-poor countries include:

- Vatican City
- Singapore
- Hong Kong
- Gibraltar
- Belgium
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Japan
- Costa Rica
- Malta

These nations are recognized for having little or no valuable mineral, energy, or agricultural resources and often depend on imports for raw materials, food, and energy despite often achieving high levels of economic development through industry, services, and innovation.

Some small island states, micro-nations, and urban economies such as Vatican City, Singapore, and Malta are particularly notable for having almost no extractable or economically significant natural resources, relying heavily instead on trade, finance, or tourism.